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HARD WOMEN

by

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1. EXT. SUPERMARKET CAR PARK. DAY. 1.

A female DOG, straining at the lead, pulls its male OWNER across a crowded carpark. The dog stops behind an off-white Mini and sniffs at the boot excitedly.

With difficulty, the owner wrenches it free and pulls it towards the entrance of a large supermarket, Coleworths.

An eight year old girl, ELLY, watches the dog avidly from the back right hand seat of the Mini. There are three other women in the car.

Still interested in the Mini, the dog is tied up next to some shopping trolleys. Her owner enters the supermarket.

2. EXT. MINI IN CAR PARK. DAY. 2.

In the driver's seat is a 65 year old woman with thick glasses, GRAN. She's reading a women's magazine.

ELLY

Why can't we have a dog,
Mum?

The passenger seat contains a tense-looking 35 year old woman, JUDE. Sitting beside ELLY in the back seat is a homely-looking 38 year old woman, AUNTY SHIRL, who is busy knitting something.

JUDE

You just can't. All right?

AUNTY SHIRL

Whatever happened to Phil's
old dog?

JUDE

Same as Phil. It got
dumped.

GRAN

It says here that radishes
are an excellent
aphrodisiac.

CONT...

Jude peers over Gran's shoulder at the magazine.

JUDE

No it doesn't. It says roses
need to be guarded against
aphid attack. Are you sure you
should be driving?

GRAN

I've been driving since before
you were a bulge in your
father's trousers.

Aunty Shirl sniggers.

JUDE

Well where's your licence
then?

AUNTY SHIRL

Oh leave Mum alone, Jude.

ELLY

Can I have a drink?

JUDE

You can have a drink when
Marjorie gets back.

ELLY

But she's taking so long.

JUDE

I said you can bloody wait.
So wait!

AUNTY SHIRL

There's no need to be rude
to Elly. She's only a kid.

JUDE

Marjorie wasn't like that
at her age. Always had her
mind on the job, even then.
Half the time I'm talking
to Elly she seems to be off
with the fairies. Isn't
that right Elly. Elly?

CONT...

But Elly is looking out the window again, at a group of GIRLS her own age walking past in school uniform.

ELLY

Why can't I go to school,
Mum?

JUDE

Dogs, drinks, school. What
else do you want? A
giraffe?! This is your
school. This is where you
belong - with your family.
Pay attention. Watch and
learn.

Gran is still reading.

GRAN

The stars don't look good
for me this week, girls. It
says I will come under the
influence of a dark moon.

JUDE

Hmmph.

AUNTY SHIRL

What about me, Mum? What's
it say about me?

GRAN

Let's see, Capricorn.
"Great changes are afoot
within".

AUNTY SHIRL

I knew it! I knew it!

JUDE

What are you talking about?

AUNTY SHIRL

The patter of little feet.
I can hear them from here.

JUDE

Oh no. Not this again.

CONT...

AUNTY SHIRL

That explains why I threw
up this morning!

JUDE

Let me explain something to
you, Shirl. In order for a
woman to get pregnant, a
man needs to be involved,
at least in a rudimentary
way.

AUNTY SHIRL

I know, I know. That's
where Geoffrey comes in.

JUDE

Geoffrey came, and left, a
year and a half ago! The
normal gestation period for
a woman is nine months.

AUNTY SHIRL

What about kangaroos? They
can keep a baby waiting
(until the time is right-)

JUDE

What about kangaroos? You
may be a moron, Shirl, but
you're definitely human.

Gran takes her glasses off to clean them.

GRAN

Stop squabbling in front of
Ellie. Marjorie will be out
soon. We have to get ready.

Gran drops her glasses. Blindly, she feels around
for them. Jude picks her glasses up and gives them
back.

JUDE

Are you sure you want to
drive?

GRAN

Sure as sure can be.

CONT...

JUDE

You didn't get your licence renewed, did you?

GRAN

Did so.

JUDE

Show it to me then.

GRAN

All right. I will.

Gran rummages in her bag and pulls out a photo ID card. She gives it to Jude.

Shirl, Elly and Jude see that it's a video membership card. Gran remains blissfully unaware, smiling triumphantly.

Jude is about to say something when the women hear the muffled sound of someone trying to speak. The sound is coming from the boot.

Shirl continues knitting.

SHIRL

Sounds like the boy's waking up.

She starts another row of her knitting, avoiding Jude's eyes.

Gran returns to her magazine.

JUDE

Guess I'd better see to him then.

She grabs a roll of gaffer tape and gets out of the car.

ELLY

Why is Tommy Bolton locked in the boot, Aunty Shirl?

AUNTY SHIRL

Maybe he's been a bad boy.

3. EXT. MINI IN CARPARK. DAY. 3.

Jude walks round to the back of the mini.

She unlocks the boot and is about to open it when the dog and its owner (from before) appear suddenly beside the car.

The dog strains towards the boot, sniffing madly. Jude scowls.

The owner smiles apologetically as he drags the dog away. When they're out of sight, Jude opens the boot.

Underneath a travel rug, someone is struggling and making inarticulate sounds.

Jude peels back a corner of the travel rug to reveal the face of a teenage boy, TOMMY BOLTON. Tommy is gagged. He wears a brightly coloured cap which says, "COLEWORTHS SUPERMARKETS".

At the sight of Jude, Tommy stops struggling and is silent. Horrified eyes fix on the roll of gaffer tape in Jude's hand. She looks coldly back at him.

Jude calmly wraps several more layers of gaffer tape round the Tommy's mouth and head.

She covers him up again with the blanket and slams the boot closed.

4. EXT. MINI IN CARPARK. DAY. 4.

Jude walks around from the back of the car as Elly explains something inside to Aunty Shirl.

ELLY

... and I remember one time
some kids stole Tommy's
trolleys and threw them
down at him from the top of
an apartment block. I don't
know why Marjorie wanted to
go out with him. He was a
loser.

Jude gets into the car.

CONT...

JUDE

I don't want to hear any
more talk about Tommy
Bolton from you, Miss. Is
that clear?

Elly nods.

From inside the supermarket, there is the sound of a
shotgun firing. People scream in terror.

Jude looks at her watch calmly and nods to Gran, who
starts the Mini.

Aunty Shirl has finished knitting. She's busy with
her needle and thread, finishing the mysterious
thing she's been making.

A tall FIGURE races out of the entrance of the
supermarket. He's wearing a balaclava and a smock
saying "COLEWORTHS".

He carries a sawn-off shotgun. Bank notes fly out of
a bulging plastic bag as he runs. The figure knocks
people and trolleys out of the way as he runs toward
the Mini.

A uniformed SECURITY GUARD, gun drawn, is in pursuit
from inside the supermarket.

Inside the Mini, Gran, Jude and Aunty Shirl all
produce different coloured balaclavas and pull them
on with military precision.

As the FIGURE runs towards the car, Aunty Shirl
snips a final thread off the thing she's been
knitting. It's a little balaclava.

She jams it on to Elly's head, but Elly has spun
around, and the balaclava is on back to front.

Gran throws the Mini into reverse. She accelerates
with a squeal of tires, heading towards the
entrance of the supermarket.

The running figure's way is blocked by a little OLD
MAN with a trolley.

FIGURE

Get out of the fucking way!

CONT...

The old man dives for cover. At the entrance of the supermarket, the security guard stops and braces himself.

He fires a shot at the running figure, who then turns and blazes away with the shotgun.

A supermarket window next to the security guard (painted with the words "SMASHING PRICES ON LIQUOR!") is completely shattered. The security guard flings himself to the ground.

Elly pulls the eyehole in the balaclava round to see the terrifying figure running straight for the Mini.

FIGURE
Move! Move!

Elly scrabbles across the seat towards Auntie Shirl.

The figure pulls open the door and dives into the back of the car.

Gran flattens the accelerator, still in reverse.

She swings the Mini through a handbrake turn and screeches off in a cloud of rubber, clipping the wing mirror of another car as she heads for the exit.

5. EXT. MINI IN CARPARK. DAY. 5.

The figure on the back seat pulls off his balaclava. "He" is actually a young woman, MARJORIE. Marjorie smiles at the others, flushed with success.

JUDE
What the hell were you
doing all that time? Buying
Tim Tams?

Elly has been knocked upside down by all this commotion. On the back seat, she gets to her knees groggily between Marjorie and Auntie Shirl.

6. EXT. CAR PARK EXIT. DAY. 6.

Still wearing her balaclava, Elly peers out the back window of the Mini as it flies over a speed bump and carries her away.